Ancient Costumes—Street Wear

CHAPTER SIX

The preceding chapter discussed ancient costumes as a source of inspiration for afternoon wear. Let us now learn what part ancient costumes can play in the designing of clothes for street wear, under the heading of which are included coats, suits and tailor-made dresses.

Figures 38 and 39 represent the costumes of two Roman warriors before the decadence of the Roman Empire. Figure 40 is the costume of a Swiss artist at the end of the fifteenth century and the beginning of the sixteenth. In figure 41 we see the costume of a Swiss woman during the early part of the sixteenth century. The costume portrayed in figure 42 is that of a German woman during the sixteenth century. The illustrations in figures 43 and 44 represent a suit and a coat taken from these illustrations of the garments of the ancients.

Figure 43. This suit was suggested by the costume of the Roman warrior; the collar, the cuffs, the buttoning of the front, and the rounded panels all came from the blades of steel going over the shoulders.

The coat in figure 44 is taken from the Swiss costumes; the one-side effect of the bolero in the ancient costume being responsible for the manner of the fastening of the coat. The slashes in the breeches are used

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as lines of trimming, through which are revealed embroidered inserts.

Have you impressed upon your mind the methods used in taking suggestions from these old-period costumes? You should not overlook the most seemingly unimportant or mediocre objects when seeking sources of information. Your imagination should be alive to every possible idea to be found in the objects you see around you. Perhaps a thought may appear a bit absurd when it first comes to you, but if you adapt it properly, you may evolve a real working idea from it. Train yourself to be alert in observing every natural and artificial object and thus develop your powers of observation, for this is the secret of a keen imagination.